PRESENT-DAY CARBONDALE CITY HALL: A DESCRIPTION

CARBONDALE CITY HALL is a detached, masonry (brick and Pennsylvania bluestone) building in the Romanesque Revival style, composed of a tower, a three-story wing and a two-story wing. No alterations have been made to the building, nor has its wholeness been impaired in any way: it appears today as it did when it was erected in 1892-1894.

THE TOWER. This massive, square, five-story, brick, corner tower rests on a slightly battered ashlar podium. The eight vertical rectangular windows on the first and second stories (four/story) are topped by massive bluestone lintels. The four vertical rectangular windows on the third story are topped by Romanesque arches of bluestone with bluestone impost blocks. The windows on the fourth story are lancets, situated in a Romanesque blind arcade, supported by a slightly projecting pilaster of red brick with lighter red brick coins and bluestone capitals. The lancets (six on the south and east sides, three on the north and west sides), which are flat arched and disposed in an alternating 2-1-1-2 rhythm, are not unlike those in the tower of Richardson's Allegheny Court House (Pittsburgh, PA, 1884-1888). The third and fourth stories and the fourth and fifth stories of the tower are separated by a continuous string course of bluestone. On the fifth story is the tower clock. The wall surfaces above the faces of the clock are filled with six levels of recessed coffering, supported by a secondary pilaster order. Below the recessed surfaces of the clock faces are two round-headed arches which rest at the level of the string course. Also below the clock faces--at the top of the fourth story and immediately below the string course--is, in each face of the tower, a decorative brick balcony. The tower is topped by a pyramidal roof that is pierced by four wooden dormers, each with two louvered windows, and surmounted by a copper globe.

THE THREE-STORY WING. The eastern face of the tower and the eastern face of the three-story wing constitute the facade of Carbondale City Hall. Like the tower, the three-story wing rests on a slightly battered ashlar podium. The dominant feature of this wing on the ground level is the massive, half-circle, primary entrance arch of bluestone with a spandrel of bluestone, which is surmounted by a baluster in the form of a Romanesque arcade. This massive entrance arch, which is not unlike the entrance arch of Richardson's Crane Memorial Library (Quincy, MA, 1880-1883), is echoed in the facade by the secondary entrance arch at the north end of the facade on the ground level. The northern side of the primary entrance arch and both sides of the secondary entrance arch are flanked by rusticated stone turrets. The deeply carved foliate capitals and bases of these three bluestone turrets are the only area of carved decoration on the facade of the building. Like the primary